(54) ELECTRONIC CAMERA DE CE

(11) 2-222383 (A) (19) JP (43) 5.9.1990

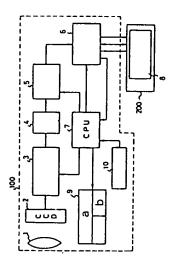
(21) Appl. No. 64-44014 (22) 23.2.1989

(71) TOSHIBA CORP(1) (72) SHUICHI HISATOMI

(51) Int. Cl3. H04N5/91,H04N5/907,H04N5/92

PURPOSE: To easily inform a user of how many pictures can be further photographed and recorded by reading the remaining capacity of a memory unit, calculating the number of the pictures, which can be photographed, from the capacity and compressibility designated at such a time and displaying the

CONSTITUTION: When a power source is turned on in a main body 100, information in the area of a header part in a memory unit 8 are read and the remaining capacity of the memory is detected. Next, a CPU 7 decides how the picture compressibility is set in the operating state of an external switch 10, namely, when the picture is photographed. When the remaining capacity and the designated compressibility is discriminated, the CPU 7 computes how many pictures can be photographed when the picture is photographed by the compressibility. Then, a display 9 is controlled and the number and the compressibility presently designated are displayed. Thus, it can be easily informed the user of how many pictures can be further photographed and recorded.



3: image pickup processing circuit, 4: A/D converter, band compression circuit. 6: memory interface circ band compression circuit. 6: memory interface circuit, a: number of pictures to be photographed. b: warning

(54) PICTURE RECORDING AND REPRODUCING SYSTEM

(11) 2-222384 (A)

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(43) 5.9.1990 (19) JP

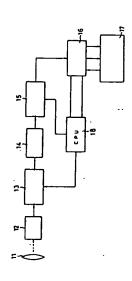
(21) Appl. No. 64-44015 (22) 23.2.1989

(72) SHUICHI HISATOMI (71) TOSHIBA CORP(1)

(51) Int. Cl5. H04N5/91, H04N5/907

PURPOSE: To attain picture display to enough present the effect of photographing by consecutive photographing function by automatically discriminating a video signal by the consecutive photographing out of the photographed video signals and successively reading the video signal from a recording medium at a prescribed speed automatically at the time of reproducing.

CONSTITUTION: When a consecutive photographing mode is set, a CPU 18 controls respective parts so that image pickup operation can be repeated in a fixed cycle while a shutter is continuously pushed. Then, data showing the consecutive photographing mode are recorded to the picture header area of a memory card 17. When picture data are reproduced by a reproducing device, the picture data are successively read in a low-speed or high-speed cycle automatically from the memory card 17 based on the data showing the consecutive photographing mode and a picture to be displayed by a display is successively switched automatically. Thus, the picture display can be executed to enough present the effect of the photographing by the consecutive photo-graphing function.



12: solid-state image pickup element, 14: A/D conversion circuit, 13: image pickup processing circuit, 15: band compression circuit, 16: memory interface circuit

(54) ELECTRONIC CAMERA DEVICE

(11) 2-222385 (A)

(43) 5.9.1990 (19) JP

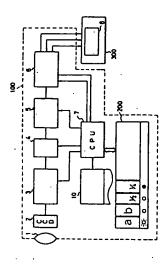
(21) Appl. No. 64-44016 (22) 23.2.1989

(71) TOSHIBA CORP(1) (72) SHUICHI HISATOMI

(51) Int. Cl5. H04N5/91, H04N5/907

PURPOSE: To recover picture data according to a recovery instruction even when an initialization instruction is executed by erroneous operation by initializing only the information of a header area when initialization is executed and preserving the information of the header area in a buffer memory.

CONSTITUTION: A memory unit 8 having a picture area to record the plural pieces of picture data and the header area to record or read the information such as the number of photographed pictures, picture final address and residual memory capacity is provided. When the initialization is instructed, only the information of the header area are initialized and these information are temporarily stored in a buffer memory 10. When the recovery is instructed, processing is executed to record the information of the buffer memory 10 to the head area. Thus, even if the initialization is operated, the picture data photographed up to the moment can be recovered when an operator notices the erroneous operation.



3: image pickup processing circuit. 4: A/D conver data compression circuit. 6: memory interface 10: buffer memory (header information), a: initia b: recovery, 200: operation and display part 4: A/D converter,

⑬日本国特許庁(JP)

10 特許出願公開

⑫公開特許公報(A)

平2-222385

⑤Int. Cl. 5

識別記号

庁内整理番号

❸公開 平成2年(1990)9月5日

H 04 N 5/91 5/907 J B 7734-5C 6957-5C

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 1 (全7頁)

会発明の名称

電子カメラ装置

Electric camera

②特 頭 平1-44016

②出 頭 平1(1989)2月23日

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1. 発明の名称

電子カメラ装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

1回の撮影により得られる画像データを 1 枚 単位とする複数枚分の画像データを記録できる画像領域と、撮影枚数情報と、最後に撮影して記録された画像データの画面最終アドレスと、残留メモリ容量の情報とを記録あるいは読出しできるヘッダー領域とを有したメモリ装置と、

撮影した映像に対応する画像データを前記メモリ袋器に供給するとともに、前記ヘッダー領域の情報の記録及び読取り処理機能を有した電子カメラ本体と、

この電子カメラ本体に設けられ、前記撮影枚数情報、画面最終アドレス、残留メモリ容量の情報とを一時保持するパッファ手段と、

前記電子カメラ本体に設けられ、前記メモリ装置の内容を初期化するために外部操作により初期 化指示を与えるための初期化指示手段と、 この初期化指示手段から初期化指示信号が入力 された場合には、前記メモリ装置のヘッダー領域 のみを初期化するヘッダー領域初期化手段と、

このヘッダー領域初期化手段が前記メモリ鉄器のヘッダー領域を初期化したとしても、弦子力メラ本体に設けられている復活指示手段から強活指示信号が入力したときは、前記バッファ音段の情報を前記メモリ袋器のヘッダー部に再審込みを行なう復活処理手段とを具備したことを特徴とする電子力メラ装置。

3. 発明の詳細な説明

[発明の目的]

(産業上の利用分野)

この発明は、例えばカードに搭載したメモリ 装置を記録媒体としてスチル画を記録できる電子 カメラ装置に関する。

(従来の技術)

最近、半導体メモリをカードに搭載したいわゆる!Cカードが開発されており、これを従来の写真フィルムの代わりとして代用する電子カメラ

そこで、ICカードを初期化して再利用することが考えられたが、その初期化手段は内容を全て消去してしまう方式であった。また初期化手段は、初期化専用のユニットとして考えられている。

従って、誤ってICカードを選択して初期化してしまうと、せっかく撮影した画像データを全て、 失うことになる。

さらに、初期化用の専用のユニットを用いるシステムにすると、電子カメラ、再生機、初期化ユニットが必要でありユニット個数が増えてしまう。

出しできるヘッダー領域とを有したメモリ装置と、 撮影した映像に対応する画像データを前記メモリ 装置に供給するとともに、前記ヘッダー領域の情 報の記録及び読取り処理機能を有した電子カメラ 本体と、この電子カメラ本体に設けられ、前記撮 影 枚 数 情 報 、 画 面 最 終 ア ド レ ス , 残 留 メ モ リ 容 量 の情報とを一時保持するバッファ手段と、前記電 子カメラ本体に設けられ、前記メモリ装置の内容 を初期化するために外部操作により初期化指示を 与えるための初期化指示手段と、この初期化指示 手段から初期化指示信号が入力された場合には、 前記メモリ装置のヘッダー領域のみを初期化する ヘッダー領域初期化手段と、このヘッダー領域初 期化手段が前記メモリ装置のヘッダー領域を初期 化したとしても、該電子カメラ本体に設けられて いる復活指示手段から復活指示信号が入力したと きは、前記パッファ手段の情報を前記メモリ装置 のヘッダー部に再書込みを行なう復活処理手段と を備えるものである。

(発明が解決しようとする課題)

上記したように、電子カメラシステムにおいては、ICカードを初期化する場合に、誤った選択を行なうと、途中で気がついても画像データを復活させることができない。

そこでこの発明は、初期化操作を行なっての発明は、初期化操作を行ないたの発明は、初期でに撮影してもなったのは、それまでき、しかもことができ、しかもことがなることがなることによりかなことによりかなうの撮影場面の選択に関いてもなったとを目的とする。

[発明の構成]

(課題を解決するための手段)

この発明は、1回の撮影により得られる画像データを1枚単位とする複数枚分の画像データを記録できる画像領域と、撮影枚数情報と、最後に撮影して記録された画像データの画面最終アドレスと、残留メモリ容量の情報とを記録あるいは読

(作用)

上記の手段により、カメラ側によりませるの初切にななり、また初期化を止める場合は、初期化操作を行なっていても復活を操作なえば、記録データを保存することができるので、例えば外出で、かな場面を撮影したいが予確のICカーできなような場合も、自由に初期化して使用できる。

(実施例)

以下、この発明の実施例を図面を参照して説

第1図はこの発明の一実施例であり、第2図はこの発明の特徴部を表わすフローチャートである。

まず、第1図の装置から説明する。光学レンズ1を通して入射した光は、固体撮像素子2の撮像面に結像される。固体撮像素子2では、光学像が電気信号に変換され、撮像処理回路3に導入される。撮像処理回路3では、撮像信号を画像信号に

上記、メモリインタフェース回路 6 から出力された画像データは、メモリ装置 8 に記憶される。メモリ装置 8 は、例えば 1 C カード 3 0 0 に搭載されており、電子カメラ本体 1 0 0 に対して装着、取り難しを自由に行なうことができる。

区分された複数の1画面領域46a、46a、 … からなり、さらに、1つの1画面データ領域46aは、画像ヘッダー領域46bと実際の画像データが記録される画像データ領域46cとから構成されている。

画像へっ領域46bbは、1 1 画面でよりな種類46bは、1 1 画面でよりな種類ののような相対のののはなり、1 1 にいかの画像のののののでは、1 にいかの画像のののののでは、1 にいかのはは、1 にいかのでは、1 にいるののでは、1 にいるののでは、1 にいるののでは、1 にいるののでは、1 にいるのでは、1 にいるので

次に、CPU-7には、上記画像データ及びその

メモリ装置 8 は、 C P U 7 とのコミュニケーションをメモリインタフェース回路 6 を通じて行なっことができる。

第3回は、メモリ装置8のメモリマップの説明 図である。

カードヘッダー領域44は、メモリカード目体 が固有に持つデータを記録する部分である。ディ レクト領域45は、画像データが記録されている 領域のスタートアドレス及びエンドアドレスを記 はする領域である。データ領域46は、画像デー タが実際に記録される領域である。

ヘッダー領域44は、カードNO. が記録される
カードNO. 領域44aと、データ領域46におい
てデータを書込むことができる領域の残留の残留が
登量域44bと、メモリカードの撮影画の
数を示すデータが記録される撮影画面像数域
44cと、データ領域46において画像データ
を使用アドレスのデータが記録される画像データ最終
アドレス領域44dを有する。

また、データ領域46は、1酉面毎にそれぞれ

関連情報をメモリ装置8に記憶せしめる機能と、 ヘッダー領域44の情報を読取り、この情報を一 時パッファメモリ10に格納する機能と、1Cカ - ドを初期化する機能を持つ。

第2図は、その特徴的な構成を説明するための フローチャートであり、以下説明する。

ここで、初期化を行なう旨の指示がなされていると、ステップS& において、ICカードのヘッダー領域の情報のみが初期化される。 これは、 例えばメモリインタフェース回路6を通じて零デー

タが普込まれる。ここで重要なことは、ヘッダー 領域のみが初期化され、他の領域はそのままに推 持されることであり、また初期化する前のヘッダ ー領域のデータは、電子カメラ本体100のパッ ファメモリ10に格納されていることである。

つぎに、ステップS1、S8 においては、データ復活を行なう旨の指示がなされいるか否か、つまり初期化を取止めるか否かの判定が行われる。.

とで撮影動作が行われた場合は、ICカードが初期化された状態となり、パッファメモリ10の内容は一旦消去される。

上記の指示を与えるスイッチは、第 1 図に示す 操作及び表示部 2 0 0 に設けられている。

第4図は、第2図の撮影動作及び処理ステップ S12の手順を更に詳しく示している。 撮像処理が 行われると、 現在の 撮影 枚数に + 1 の 加算が行われる (ステップ S21)。 次に 現在の 残留 メモリ 容量から 画面 1 枚分の る量が が な 最影 枚数 画面 1 枚分の な 新たな 撮影 枚数 と と 残留 アドレスがチェックされ、 ステップ S24. S25)。 これにより 新たな 最終 アドレス 長が 加算される (ステップ S24. S25)。 これにより 新たな 最終 アドレスを 得ることが できる。

次に、新たな撮影枚数からディレクトリエリアが検出され、これに最終アドレスが音込まれる。 そして最終アドレスがわかると、カード内の画像 データ格納エリアが確認されそのエリアへ画像デ

ータが格納される(ステップ S 26、 S 27、 S 28、 S 29)。 さらに、その他のヘッダーデータや画像データ以外のヘッダーデータの普込みが行われ(ステップ S 30、 S 31)、機像動作及び処理を終了する。

上記したようにこの実施例によると、

① I C カードの初期化機能を電子カメラに设けている。これにより、予確の I C カードがないときに、撮影したい重要な場面に遠辺したときに、即座に対応できる。さらに I C カードの再利用が可能であり、電気的な寿命があるかぎり、例えばラベルを更新して利用できる。

②更に、初期化する場合に、ヘッダー領域の情報のみを初期化できるようにしている。 しかも、初期化指示がなされてもヘッダー領域の情報を直ぐに捨てるのではなく、バッファメモリに保存して復活できる状態を作ることができる。

従って、初期化指示を誤った場合、また、なんらかの誤操作により初期化指示を行なってしまった場合も、ユーザが気が付けば復活指示を行なう

ことにより画像データには何等影響なくなで撮影でしたがある。初期化を行なうと、今まで撮影ーと、動像データの領域に、新たに撮影の画像データが消失することであるから、非常に領域合は、投する。そこで、初期の光学点はは、投するのにおいたののようにすることが好ましい。

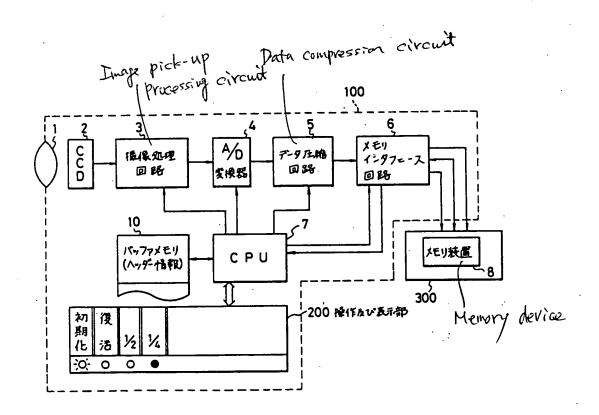
[発明の効果]

以上説明したようにこの発明は、初期化设作を行なっても途中で気が付けば、それまでに撮影していた画像データを復活させることができ、しかもこの機能を、電子カメラ本体に設けることがなることがなくても初期化することによりカメラの撮影場面の選択度に融通性を持たせることができる。4. 図面の簡単な説明

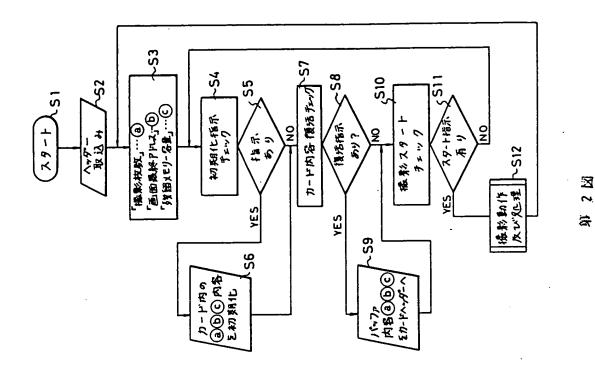
第1図はこの発明の一実施例を示すブロック 図、第2図はこの発明の装置の動作を説明するた めに示したフローチャート、第3図は1 C カードのメモリマップの例を示す説明図、第4 図は電子カメラの選影処理手順の例を示すフローチャートである。

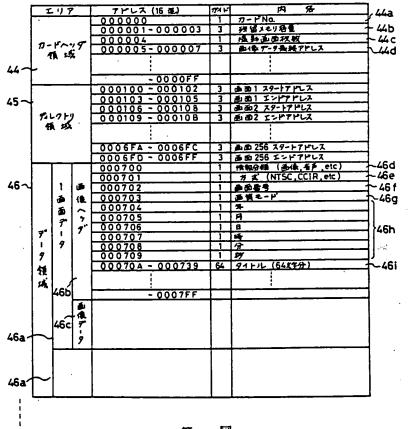
1 … 光学レンズ、 2 … 固体摄像素子、 3 … 摄像処理回路、 4 … A / D 変換器、 5 … データ 圧縮回路、 6 … メモリインタフェース回路、 7 … C P U、 8 … メモリ装置、 1. 0 … バッファメモリ、 2 0 0 … 操作及び表示部。

出願人代理人 弁理士 鈴 江 武 彦

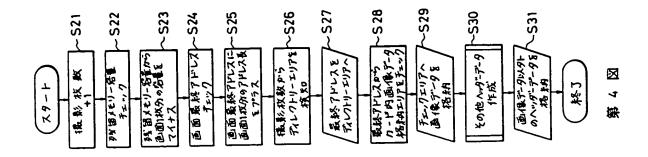


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第 3 図 - 760-





KALPH McElroy **IRANSLATION**

EXCELLENCE WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY

June 6, 2001

Re: 6220-82955

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that a professional translator on our staff who is skilled in the Japanese language translated the enclosed Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. Hei 2[1990]-222385 from Japanese into English.

We certify that the attached English translation conforms essentially to the original Japanese language.

Kim Vitray

Operations Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

Tina Wuelfing

Notary Public

TINA WUELFING Votary Public, State of Texas My Commission Expires DECEMBER 8, 2003

My commission expires: December 8, 2003

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Job No.: 6220-82955

Translated from Japanese by the Ralph McElroy Translation Company 910 West Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701 USA

JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE PATENT JOURNAL (A)

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5/907

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1 (Total of 7 pages)

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Not filed

ELECTRONIC CAMERA DEVICE

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3 others

[There are no amendments to this patent.]

Claim

Electronic camera device characterized by the fact that is comprised of the following parts:

a memory device which has a picture region for recording picture data for multiple pictures obtained during each picture-taking cycle, and a header region for recording and reading the number of pictures taken, the address of the last picture taken and recorded, and information on the available memory region;

an electronic camera main body which supplies the picture data corresponding to the taken pictures in said memory device and, at the same time, has a function for recording and reading the information of said header region;

a buffer means arranged in the electronic camera main body for temporarily holding the information of said number of pictures taken, address of the last picture, and the available memory region;

an initialization instruction means which is arranged in said electronic camera main body and gives the initialization instruction by an external operation for initializing the contents of said memory device;

a header region initialization means which initializes only the header region of said memory device when an initialization instruction signal is input from said initialization instruction means;

and a recovery processing means which re-writes the information of said buffer means in the header region of said memory device when a recovery instruction signal is input from the recovery instruction means set on the electronic camera main body, even when said header region initialization means initializes the header region of said memory device.

Detailed explanation of the invention

Objective of the invention

Industrial application field

The present invention pertains to an electronic camera device which can record still pictures on a recording medium, such as a memory device carried on a card.

Prior art

Recently, so-called IC cards that contain semiconductor memory have been developed. They can be used in electronic camera in place of conventional photographic film. Optical image information is converted into electronic signals to obtain image data, which passes through a memory interface circuit and is recorded in the memory device in the IC card. On the other hand, in a conventional camera that makes use of a silver salt film, the picture data is written (mapped)

onto the film, which can be used only once, and it then disposed of. However, since the recording medium of the aforementioned electronic camera can be semiconductor memory, it can be re-used as long as its electric service life has not been exhausted.

However, if the IC card is initialized and re-used, the initialization means entirely erases the contents. Also, the initialization means is a unit dedicated to the initialization operation.

Consequently, if an IC card is mistakenly selected and initialized, all of the picture data that was painstakingly taken are lost.

In addition, in a system using a dedicated initialization unit, the user must have an electronic camera, playback unit, and initialization unit. That is, the number of discrete units is increased.

Problems to be solved by the invention

As explained above, with the electronic camera system, once the IC card is initialized, there is no way to recover the picture data if selection was made erroneously, even if the user notices his mistake midway during the operation.

The purpose of the present invention is to solve the aforementioned problems of the conventional method by providing a type of electronic camera device characterized by the fact that even if the initialization operation has already been started, if the user notices his mistake midway during the operation, the user still can recover the picture data that has been taken, and, since the function is a function of the electronic camera main body, the number of discrete devices can be reduced, and, if there is no available memory, by initializing, the picture-taking ability of the camera can be made more selective.

Constitution of the invention

Means to solve the problems

The present invention provides a type of electronic camera device characterized by the fact that it is comprised of the following parts: a memory device that has a picture region that can record picture data for multiple pictures obtained during each picture-taking cycle, and a header region for recording and reading the number of pictures taken, the address of the last picture taken and recorded, and information on the available memory region; an electronic camera main body which supplies the picture data corresponding to the taken pictures in said memory device and, at the same time, has a function for recording and reading the information of said header region; a buffer means arranged in the electronic camera main body for temporarily holding the information of said number of pictures taken, address of the last picture, and the available memory region; an initialization instruction means which is arranged in said electronic camera main body and gives the initialization instruction by an external operation for initializing the

contents of said memory device; a header region initialization means which initializes only the header region of said memory device when an initialization instruction signal is input from said initialization instruction means; and a recovery processing means which re-writes the information of said buffer means to the header region of said memory device when a recovery instruction signal is input from the recovery instruction means set on the electronic camera main body, even when said header region initialization means initializes the header region of said memory device.

Operation

By the aforementioned means, it is possible to initialize the memory device from the camera side. If initialization is to be stopped after the initialization operation is completed, it is possible to store the recording data by performing the recovery operation, so that the recorded data can be stored. Thus, initialization can be performed as desired even if spare IC card is not on hand when one desires to take an important picture, for example, when the user is not home.

Application examples

In the following, application examples of the present invention will be explained with reference to figures.

Figure 1 is a diagram illustrating an application example of the present invention. Figure 2 is a flow chart illustrating the characterizing portion of the present invention.

First, refer to the device shown in Figure 1. The light incident through optical lens (1) is imaged on the picture-taking surface of solid-state pickup element (2). By means of solid-state pick-up element (2), the optical image is converted into an electronic signal, which is fed into pickup processing circuit (3). In pickup processing circuit (3), the picture-taking signal is converted into a picture signal, which is sent to analog/digital (hereinafter referred to as A/D) converter (4). The digital picture data obtained in this case is sent to data compressing circuit (5). Data compressing circuit (5) performs data compression corresponding to the compression rate of the data (such as zero, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, etc.), and the output picture data is sent to memory interface circuit (6). The control signal for determining the compression rate with respect to data compressing circuit (5) is generated by, e.g., central processing unit (hereinafter referred to as CPU) (7). CPU (7) can exchange data with operation/display unit (200) arranged on electronic camera main body (100). Consequently, by operating the compression rate switch of operation/display unit (200), it is possible to determine the compression rate of data compressing circuit (5).

The picture data output from memory interface circuit (6) is stored in memory device (8). For example, memory device (8) is carried on IC card (300), and it can be quick-connected/disconnected to electronic camera main body (100).

Memory device (8) can communicate with CPU (7) through memory interface circuit (6). Figure 3 is a diagram illustrating the memory map of memory device (8).

Card header region (44) is the portion where the data intrinsically held by the memory card itself is recorded. Direct region (45) is the region where the start address and end address of the region for recording the picture data are stored. Data region (46) is the region where the picture data is actually recorded.

Header region (44) has card No. region (44a) for recording the card No., available memory region (44b) indicating the region where the data in data region (46) can be written, number of pictures taken region (44c) indicating where the data concerning the number of the pictures taken on the memory card is recorded, and last picture address region (44d) indicating where the data of the last used address of the picture data in data region (46) is recorded.

Data region (46) is composed of multiple single-picture regions (46a), (46a)... divided up for each picture. Each single-picture region (46a) is composed of picture header region (46b) and picture data region (46c) for recording the actual picture data.

Picture header region (46b) is composed of the following regions: information classification region (46d), which indicates the type of data (such as image, voice, etc.) recorded in picture data region (46c) of single-picture data region (46a); format region (46e), which indicates the type of data processing system (such as NTSC, CCIR, etc.) for the picture data region; number of pictures taken region (46f) for recording the number of pictures taken; image quality mode region (46g) for recording the image quality mode set by the compression rate; time region (46h) for supplying the picture-taking time; time region (46h) for recording the picture-taking time; title region (46i) for recording the recorded title; etc.

CPU (7) has the following functions: storing said picture data and the related information in memory device (8), reading the information from header region (44) and storing the information in temporary buffer memory (10), and initializing the IC card.

Figure 2 is a flow chart for illustrating the characteristic constitution. It is explained below.

When the power to electronic camera main body (100) is turned on, the header region information of the IC card installed in the electronic camera main body is read. This information includes the number of pictures taken, the address of the last picture, and the available memory region. These data are read by CPU (7) and temporarily stored in buffer memory (10) (steps S1, S2, S3). Then, the signal from operation/display unit (200) is read, and it is determined whether there is an instruction for initializing the IC card (steps S4, S5).

If there is an instruction for initialization, only the information of the header region of the IC card is initialized in step S6. For example, zero data is written via memory interface circuit (6). In this case, the initialization is to ensure that only the header region is initialized, while the other regions are maintained unchanged. Also, the data in the header region before initialization is stored in buffer memory (10) of electronic camera main body (100).

Then, in steps S7 and S8, it is determined whether there is an instruction for recovery of the data, that is, whether initialization is to be stopped.

If there is recovery instruction, that is, if there is an instruction to stop initialization, in step S9, the information in buffer memory (10) is recorded in the header region of the IC card. On the other hand, if there is no recovery instruction, it is determined whether there is a picture-taking start operation, that is, shutter operation (steps S10, S11). If there is not, process control returns to step S4, and, once again, the initialization instruction and recovery instruction are checked. On the other hand, if there is an instruction for picture-taking, in step S12, the picture-taking operation and processing are started. Once such an operation comes to an end, process control returns to step S3. When the picture-taking operation is performed while there is an initialization instruction, the IC card enters the initialized state, and the contents of buffer memory (10) are erased.

The switch for giving said instruction is set in operation/display unit (200) shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a diagram illustrating the picture-taking operation and processing step S12 shown in Figure 2 in more detail. When the pickup processing is carried out, +1 is added to the default number of pictures taken (step S21). Then, the default remaining memory volume is checked (step S22), and the volume corresponding to one picture is subtracted from the remaining memory volume (step S23). In this way, a new number of pictures taken and a new remaining memory volume are obtained. Then, the address of the last picture is checked, and the address length corresponding to one picture is added to it (steps S24, S25). In this way, a new last address is obtained.

Then, from the new number of pictures taken, the directory is detected and the last address is written to it. When the last address is known, the picture data accommodating area in the card is checked, and the image data is accommodated in this area (steps S26, S27, S28, S29). In addition, other header data and the header data other than the picture data are written (steps S30, S31), and the picture-taking operation and processing come to an end.

In the aforementioned application example, the following effects can be realized.

① The initialization function of the IC card is set in the electronic camera. In this way, if there is no spare IC card available, and one wishes to take a picture, the user can solve the problem immediately. In addition, it enables reuse of the IC card. For example, by renewing the label, it can be used, as long as the electronic service is not consumed.

② In addition, when initialization is performed, only the information in the header region is initialized. Also, the information of the header region is not disposed of immediately even if there is an initialization instruction. Instead, it is stored in a buffer memory and can be recovered.

Consequently, if an error takes place in the initialization instruction, when an initialization instruction is made erroneously due to certain mistaken operation, when the user notices the mistake, the user can recover the picture data unchanged. During initialization, the newly taken picture data is written to the data region of the picture that has been taken, and the previous picture data are erased. Consequently, the operation should be carried out carefully. In this case, when an initialization instruction is given, it is preferred that the user be notified by means of a blinking light in an easily noticeable color on the display unit or by means of buzzer.

Effects of the invention

As explained above, according to the present invention, when the user notices a mistake after giving an initialization instruction, the user can recover the picture that has been taken. Also, since this function is contained in the electronic camera main body, the total number of discrete units is reduced. In addition, even when no memory is available, by initializing the picture-taking ability of the camera can be made more selective.

Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating an application example of the present invention. Figure 2 is a flow chart illustrating the operation of the device of the present invention. Figure 3 is a diagram illustrating an example of the memory map of the IC card. Figure 4 is a flow chart illustrating an example of the pickup processing procedure of the electronic camera.

- 1 Optical lens
- 2 Solid-state pickup element
- 3 Pickup processing circuit
- 4 A/D converter
- 5 Data compressing circuit
- 6 Memory interface circuit
- 7 CPU
- 8 Memory device
- 10 Buffer memory
- 200 Operation/display unit

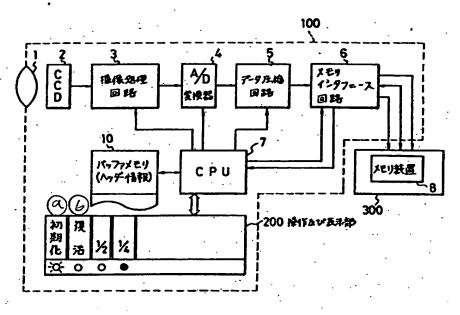


Figure 1

Key:	3	Pickup processing circuit
	4	A/D converter
	5	Data compressing circuit
•	6	Memory interface circuit
	8	Memory device
	10	Buffer memory (header information)
	200	Operation/display unit
1	а	Initialization
	h	Recovery

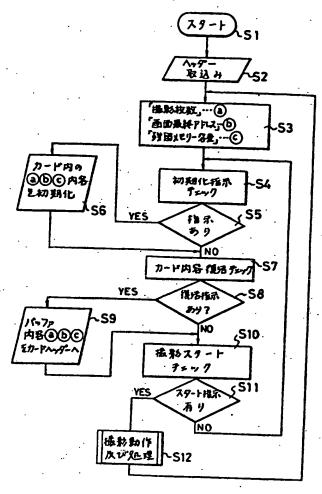
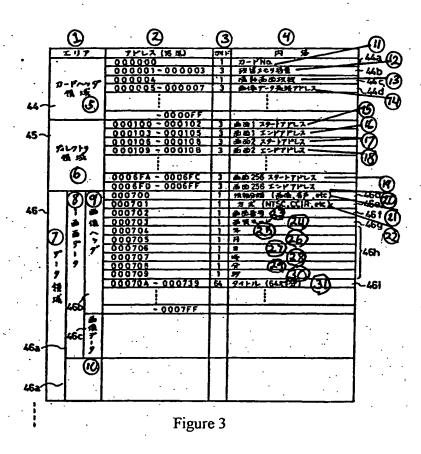


Figure 2

Key:	S1	START
	S2	Header take-in
	S3	"Number of pictures taken" (a)
		"Address of the last picture" (b)
		"Remaining memory volume" (c)
	S4	Checking of initialization instruction
	S 5	Is there an instruction?
	S6	Contents (a), (b), (c) of the card are initialized
	S7	Checking of recovery of card contents
	S8	Is there a recovery instruction?
	S9	Contents (a), (b), (c) of the buffer are sent to card header
	S10	Checking of picture-taking start
	S11	Is there a start instruction?
	S12	Picture-taking operation and processing



Key: 1 Area

- 2 Address (hexadecimal)
- 3 Guide
- 4 Content
- 5 Card header region
- 6 Directory region
- 7 Data region
- 8 Single-picture data
- 9 Picture header
- 10 Picture data
- 11 Card No.
- 12 Remaining memory volume
- Number of pictures taken
- 14 Address of the last picture
- 15 Picture 1 start address
- 16 Picture 1 end address
- 17 Picture 2 start address
- 18 Picture 3 end address
- 19 Picture 256 start address
- 20 Picture 256 end address

S21	Number of pictures taken + 1
S22	Checking of remaining memory volume
S23	Subtraction of the volume corresponding to one picture from the available memory region
S24	Checking address of the last picture
S25	Addition of an address length corresponding to one picture to the address of the last picture
S26	Detection of directory area from the number of pictures taken
S27	Sending of the last address to the directory area
S28	Checking of the accommodating area of picture data in card from the last address
S29	Accommodation of picture data in the checked area
S30	Preparation of other header data
S31	Accommodation of header data other than picture data

- Information classification (image, voice, etc.) 21
- Format (NTSC, CCIR, etc.) 22
- 23 Picture No.
- Image quality mode 24
- 25 Year ·
- 26 Month
- Date 27
- Hour 28
- 29 Minute
- Second 30
- Title (64 characters) 31

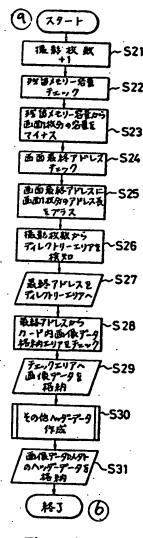


Figure 4

START Key: a **END**

b

40	FM Demodulating circuit
42	Camera main body system controller
45	Remote-control receiving part
51	Microphone amplifier
52	Noise reduction circuit
53	Low-pass filter
56	A/D converter
57	D/A converter
59	Low-pass filter
60	Pre-emphasis circuit
61	Low-pass filter
62	Noise reduction circuit
63	Line amplifier
65	De-emphasis circuit
66	Low-pass filter
67 ·	Audio adapter system controller

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